

Recycling in Kentucky

In 1986, the United States threw away 2.5 million tons of steel cans - mostly food containers. Depending on available recyclers and garbage pick-up/landfill cost, some of the following ideas are being tried in Kentucky colleges and food service facilities. Your county extension office has a list of local recyclers. Land fill costs have doubled in the last two years in many areas. There have been five fold increases in cost in some areas of the northeastern United States.

#10 Cans - Recycle centers will take if rinsed and label removed. A can crusher is needed to flatten the cans for storage.

Styrofoam vs. paper cups - Styrofoam is made from petroleum products. These can be recycled but there is limited # of recyclers and limited market. Dart Co. will supply bailer for Styrofoam if you use only Dart products. Items must be separated - plastic from paper, etc. Paper products are often coated so these do not break down in the landfill. Some colleges sell refillable mugs offering a discount for those who use the refillable mug.

Corrugated Cardboard - Flatten out boxes; do not let them get wet.

Milk Containers - Alternatives to milk cartons include mini-sip pouches and some systems are using milk dispensers and glasses (School for the Deaf).

Plastics - Two types are recycled: High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) examples include milk jugs. The second type is Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) - examples include two liter bottles. All containers must be rinsed, cleaned and decapped.

Glass Bottles - To recycle bottles, these need to be separated by color clear, green, brown with no metal or plastic caps.

To find your local recyclers and what products can be recycled in your area, contact your county extension office.

The information included in this sheet is taken from "Recycling: A Way to Reduce Waste Disposal Cost" by William E. Murphy, PhD - Extension Housing and energy Specialist, Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Kentucky and Interview with Robert Brown, University of Kentucky Food Service.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts

Some substances can contaminate an entire bin of paper designated for recycling. Don't allow these materials in your recycling bin:

Paper Products that are NOT Recyclable

waxed paper
magazines
slick paper
fax paper
onion skin
junk mail
yellow Kraft envelopes
Post-it notes
paper plates
paper towels
paper cups
napkins
food wrappers
phone books
Peel-n-Stick labels
Crack-n-Peel labels
carbon paper

Contaminants

glue
food wastes
metal objects
tobacco and by-products
plastic cups, plates, utensils
coffee grounds
paint cans

You can recycle more than white bond paper. Do fill recycling bins with these items.

White Paper Bin

white bond
white xerographic paper
tab cards
computer punch cards
white or green and white computer printouts
stapled documents
work-a-day calendar pads
ruled binder paper
adding machine tape
white paper with colored inks

Mixed Paper Bin

all colored paper
white envelopes
Scotch-taped paper
xerographic paper wrappers
Manila folders and file stock
padded paper
NCR paper

Filename: recycl.rtf
Directory: C:\WINDOWS\DESKTOP\GettingtoProficiency\MiscHand
outs
Template: C:\WINDOWS\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\NORMAL.DOT
Title: Recycling in Kentucky
Subject:
Author: khammond
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 3/20/2001 3:29 PM
Change Number: 3
Last Saved On: 3/21/2001 9:42 AM
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